

Reveal 2 Senators' Plea to Kennedy for Invasion

BY PHILIP WARDEN

(Chicago Tribune Press Service)

Washington, Oct. 24 — The chairmen of the Senate armed services and the foreign relations committees urged President Kennedy at the White House on Monday to invade rather than blockade Cuba, it was disclosed today.

Sen. Richard Russell (D., Ga.) of the armed services committee and Sen. William Fulbright (D., Ark.) of the foreign relations committee, told the President that invasion would be less costly now than later, participants in the conference said.

Losses Might Be Less

The senators told the President that the casualties which might result from invading Cuba and smashing the Russian missile-launchers might be much smaller than could be expected if missiles from these bases carrying nuclear warheads were rained on the United States.

The President listened to the arguments of the two senators but he had his mind made up before the congressional leaders were summoned to Wash-

ington, the participants said. The President had called them in to tell them what he was going to do, not to consult them about his plans, they reported. "We could see that the die was cast," said one of the participants who refused to be identified by name. "The President had his speech written. His plans were made. He had to cut short this debate to go on the air."

Invasion Still Possible

The congressional leaders left the meeting with the President with the impression that an invasion of Cuba may be ordered, however, within a matter of days unless Russia agrees to dismantle the missile launchers whose deadly weapons now are aimed at United States targets.

One source said the only other development which might head off an invasion would be an agreement by Cuba to allow representatives from the United Nations to inspect all of that country's missile sites and make positive determination that they were capable of handling only defensive weapons, as the Russians insist.

The President told Russell and Fulbright that an immediate invasion of Cuba carried too much risk — that Russian Premier Nikita Khrushchev is so impetuous that his counter-moves might make war inevitable.

Too Much Time Required

The President also reminded the congressional leaders that the massing of an invasion force takes much more time than the United States now has available, in view of the rapid assemblage of the missile launching pads.

The United States could try to bomb simultaneously each of the missile launching sites, but this might not be sufficient, the congressional leaders learned. Thus if Russia and Cuba refuse to dismantle the sites or to allow for inspection, invasion will be the only alternative, he said.

Russell and Fulbright told the President that Russia took no halfway steps when it risked World War III to smash the Hungarian revolution. They insisted that neither should the United States in this crisis.

Nikita Ignore Warning

Khrushchev, they said, received ample warning that the United States intended to protect the security of the western hemisphere if he bothered to read the speech President Kennedy made on Cuba on Sept. 13. Russell said that warning apparently was ignored by Khrushchev.

Altho Russell and Fulbright refused to tell reporters what they said at the White House, other participants said the two senators emphasized that the United States must be "tough" in carrying out whatever course it adopts to deal with Cuba.

Mike Mansfield (Mont.), Senate Democratic leader, said today that Khrushchev and Cuban Premier Fidel Castro should no longer have any doubts that the United States is ready to protect western hemisphere security.